

principal aim is, to cause His love to be loved. The mission of Jesus Christ upon the earth, was to enkindle thereon the fire of divine love. I have come, said He, to cast fire on the earth, and what will I but that it be kindled (St. Luke, xii. : 49).

When our Blessed Lord came in the incarnation, he found the world steeped in corruption and enveloped in the thick night of paganism; it was a huge, lifeless carcass, with the coldness and pallor of spiritual death upon it. Everything therein was worshipped save the true God, and he was an outlaw in his own creation. Our divine Redeemer came, enkindled in far distant Galilee the fire of divine love, and behold, this fire flames out and spreads from east to west, until it embraced the world in its divine flames; until it purged and purified the earth, and made it a new creation; in the words of Holy Writ "Renewed the face of the earth." When the Sacred Heart began to beat and palpitate in the world, the idols fell shattered from their pedestals, the oracles became dumb, the multifarious errors of paganism disappeared like a wrack of stormy clouds before the rising sun, and regenerate man rose from the grave of spiritual death, and his heart was changed and warmed into a new life: "was not our heart burning within us whilst He spake in the way (Luke xxiv : 32). The patrician and plebeian, the noble lady and lowly handmaid, the soldier and civilian, men and women of every state and social grade, leave all for the love of Christ because Christ first loved them, and died for their salvation. "The charity of Christ constrains us (says St. Paul), judging this, that if one died for all were dead; and Christ died for all, that they also who live may not live to themselves, but unto Him who died for them and rose again (II v. : 14 and 15)."

But alas! the fervour and the love of God that distinguished the early Christians have disappeared; the charity of some has grown cold; tepidity and laxity flourish like rank noxious weeds, even in the Lord's vineyard; indifferentism has fallen like a blight upon the modern world, and Sirocco-like, has dried up the very springs of piety and virtue; the sacred truths of religion are questioned and assailed, Christian traditions are fast disappearing, and doubt and infidelity, like a wasting plague, are spread-